



Lamoine Board of Selectmen Minutes of March 9, 2006

Deputy Town Clerk Stu Marckoon called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM

Present were: Selectmen Brett Jones, Richard Fennelly Jr., Perry Fowler, S. Josephine Cooper; Administrative Assistant Stu Marckoon, Michael Garrett, and CTV tech William Butler.

Swear In New Selectmen – Stu administered the oaths of office to Brett and Jo who were re-elected two days previously.

Selection of Chair – Richard nominated Jo as chair. Perry 2nd. **Vote in favor was 3-0 (Cooper abstained).**

Agenda Review – There were no changes to the agenda

Consideration of Minutes – February 16, 2006 - Jo asked about a statement in the minutes she didn't recall making. Stu and the rest of the board assured her she did. Richard moved to approve the minutes as presented. Perry 2nd. **Vote in favor was 4-0.**

February 23, 2006 – Jo moved to approve the minutes as presented. Richard 2nd. **Vote in favor was 4-0.**

Consent Agreement – Stu said he drafted the agreement with Ronald Simons, sent it to the Town Attorney who made some minor changes. He said the attorney approved version was sent to Mr. Simons with an invitation to sign it or meet with the Selectmen tonight. Stu said he'd not heard from Mr. Simons. Selectmen tabled the matter, hoping Mr. Simons might show up later.

Policies – Disbursement Policy – Richard asked why a line was in bold print. Stu said the reason for the bold print was because it's a change from the previous policy. Richard asked how the Selectmen would know whether a bill was paid prior to them signing the warrant. Stu said it would appear with a check number in their packet prior to the meeting. Jo asked about another line that was in bold print. Stu said apparently that was a change to the policy last year and he had not changed the font. Jo moved to approve the disbursement policy as presented. Brett 2nd. **Vote in favor was 4-0.**

Fee Schedule – Stu explained he'd added two new categories of fees – computer files and TV programs. Jo moved to approve the fee schedule as presented. Perry 2nd. **Vote in favor was 4-0.** Stu noted that should the Taxpayer Bill of Rights scheduled for a vote in

November pass, any increase in fees would likely have to be approved by a 2/3 vote of Town Meeting.

Excise Tax Analysis – Stu said this is a proposed policy suggested by the State Audit Bureau. He said the report is very easy to generate on a quarterly basis. Selectmen said the policy seems to make sense.

Computer Policy – Stu said this is another proposed policy that he pulled from the Internet. Brett suggested the automatic patch language be revised, and an auto-backup system be utilized. Richard noted the section numbering needs work.

Calculation of Municipal Tax Commitment- Stu said this should go to the Board of Assessors for Review. Richard asked if the first line which as the Administrative Assistant assisting the Board of Assessors was already in practice. Stu said he's assisted the Assessors regularly. Richard gave several written punctuation corrections.

General Fiscal Policies – Selectmen asked Stu to check on the assertion made at town meeting that the town had passed some policy setting a \$2,500 threshold for requiring bids on town property to be disposed of. A short discussion followed on the bid procedure.

Brett asked if any lease to Doug Gott & Sons would have to be approved by Town Meeting. Stu said it would. Perry noted that a \$2,500 threshold is less restrictive than the \$1,000 passed at this town meeting. Richard handed in several written changes to the proposed policy.

Road Name – Jo moved to approve the name “Memory Lane” for a road serving two dwellings beginning at 122 Lamoine Beach Road. Perry 2nd. **Vote in favor was 4-0.**

Bangor Hydro Waiver for Road Weight Restrictions – Perry moved to approve a written request from Bangor Hydro allowing them to travel on posted roads to restore power. Jo 2nd. **Vote in favor was 4-0. Jo signed the letter.**

Communication from Pine Tree Waste – Stu noted he had not heard anything from Pine Tree Waste.

Long Range Planning Committee Analysis – Stu said a very well written, well thought out report came from the Long Range Planning Committee. Brett said the committee now has to figure out what it all means.

Jo said it looks like the survey favored bike lanes. Stu said the MDOT had contacted him about the letter sent several months ago asking for bike lanes. Jo said she called Jim Fisher at the Hancock County Planning Commission and was told bike lanes were not a bad idea. Stu said the MDOT funding priority list is due soon and that could be added.

Richard asked why it is difficult to get police patrols in Lamoine. A discussion followed regarding what services the County Sheriff's Department is doing. Stu said they basically spend all their time responding to complaints and there is virtually no patrolling done anymore. Selectmen discussed possibly purchasing patrol time such as Blue Hill does. Brett said speeding is a big concern. A short discussion followed.

Jo said the town should get some numbers to see what a patrol contract might cost. Brett said if the town could get a certain number of hours and an officer randomly patrols that might be helpful. He asked if Stu could contact the Sheriff to see if they could offer some time.

Jo asked what the next step is for the Long Range Planning Committee. Brett said they'll develop some suggestions for next year's town meeting. He said one thing the committee might recommend to the Selectmen is an economic development committee. He said the committee has lots of questions regarding the Comprehensive Planning update process.

Mike Garrett said the committee would look at the Comprehensive Plan and try to find where it needs to be adjusted. Brett said significant zoning changes can't be done.

Expenditure Warrant 18 – Selectmen signed warrant 18 for \$88,779.89. Stu noted that about \$76,000 was for school expenses. Perry asked about a \$50 expenditure on Asa's Lane. Stu said Nankervis Trucking picked up a pile of gravel spilled on the road.

Cash & Budget Report – There were no questions regarding the written report.

Checking Account Reconciliation – Stu said he did not put it in the packet because it wasn't done. Selectmen opted to do this at the next meeting instead.

Town Meeting - Parks Ordinance – Selectmen signed the updated Parks Ordinance approved at the town meeting the night before. Selectmen praised the members of the parks committee for their presentation and effort on the ordinance changes.

Attendance – Richard asked how many attended. Stu said the official voter count was 148. A short discussion followed about the attrition of voters toward the end of the meeting.

Land Sale – Jo said she found the land sale vote interesting. Perry said the questions raised by the town meeting changed his mind. Jo said there seems to be some level of distrust. Brett said he heard the potential buyer was a shrewd businessman and there might be more gravel to extract on the land. He said several people mentioned to him that they would support a survey of the land. Stu said a final accounting is still due under the previous contract.

Stu asked what the town should communicate to Doug Gott & Sons. Brett said the town should find out the final accounting of the gravel sale. Richard said maybe an adjusted sale price should be sought. Jo said to let them know that town meeting had no interest in

selling the land and that was quite clear. A short discussion followed on the potential revenue from leasing the land. Brett said the land is essentially useless to the town. He said some people expressed concern over what the town is going to do with gravel pits, and said the town can't force private pits to do anything beyond the ordinance. Perry said it would help to know the distance to groundwater on the town land.

Jo said the communication should be simple; that the town had no interest in selling the land. Brett said it should include a request to finish the deal on the previous gravel sale. He said the ball is now in Gott's court, possibly doing a land lease. He said maybe an informational meeting prior to any town meeting vote would help. Perry said there probably would not be as much opposition to a lease, as the town could place limits. He said he did not think Mr. Gott was trying to trick the town into selling valuable land cheaply. He said he's not 100-percent confident of the information.

Fiscal Policy Revisited – Richard said in the previously discussed draft fiscal policy that the \$300,000 fund balance language is very restrictive. Stu said he would work on re-wording that.

Other – Next Meeting – Stu noted that fire Chief Skip Smith would visit the Selectmen on the 23rd regarding the firehouse roof. He said the fiberglass shingles have been blown off in large numbers in recent wind storms. He noted the town hall shingles are very flimsy too as they are very old.

Park Revenues – Selectmen read a letter from the Department of Conservation noting that the fees the town receives from campers at Lamoine State Park will be cut significantly.

State Valuation – Stu noted he put the new proposed state valuation in the materials on the table this evening. He said the proposed 2007 value is \$231,450,000 which is pretty close to the town's 2005 valuation. Richard noted there was an interesting article on revaluation in the latest edition of the Maine Townsman. A short discussion followed.

Laptop for Code Enforcement Officer – Brett said Dennis Ford had suggested a laptop computer so he wouldn't have to bother Stu looking up building permit numbers. He said that should be looked into.

Thanks for Volunteers – Brett asked if there was interest in doing some sort of thanks for the many people who volunteer their time for the town. Jo said it's an excellent idea and they did one a few years ago before the end of school. She said it's important to do that. Stu said the program a few years ago was nice, but he'd like to see a more formal program. Jo said she'd work on that, and probably Cynthia would be interested in helping.

Town Meeting Accessibility- There was a very brief discussion about how to make town meeting as available to as many people as possible.

Press Release re: Town Meeting – Stu said he drafted up a press release on town meeting. He said he would send it to Maine Municipal Association for the *Townsmen*.

Oil Spill- Brett noted that an insurance investigator had contacted him regarding the oil spill on Seal Point Road last November and he planned to meet with him tomorrow.

Cable TV – Stu said he received several favorable comments from Cable TV viewers on the Election Night coverage. He said he put up the vote totals as they were coming in each 50-vote lot. He said he updated the web page as well simultaneously. Brett asked if there was anything new regarding the Adelphia meeting. Stu said there won't be a meeting until after Time Warner's purchase, and he heard something on TV that the public advocate may have opposed the deal.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Stu Marckoon, Adm. Asst.